Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8675 AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 7360

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SCUL, MU

SUBJECT: AFME CONTRACT PROPOSAL TO OMAN

REF: MUSCAT 232, BEIRUT 6620, KUWAIT 2676

SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT ASKED TO CONTACT ORIN PARKER, BEIRUT REP OF AMERICAN FRIENDS OF MIDDLE EAST (AFME), WHO NOW MAY BE AFME HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON, TO STRAIGHTEN OUT COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM CONCERNING AFME PROPOSAL TO COUNSEL OMANI STUDENTS TO MAY SEEK ENTRY US UNIVERSITIES FOR SEPTEMBER. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT OMAN HAS ORDERED ITS 15 AID STUDENTS TO WITHDRAW FROM AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT (AUB). END SUMMARY

- 1. AS WE UNDERSTAND BACKGROUND, PARKER, SOLE AMERICAN AFME REP BEIRUT WHO LEFT HERE ON HOME LEAVE JUNE 22, SUBMITTED CONTRACT PROPOSAL TO OMAN MINED SOME TIME AGO TO PROCESS OMANI STUDENTS GOING TO US. OMAN MINED RECENTLY ORDERED OMANI STUDENTS TO WITHDRAW FROM BEIRUT UNIVERSITIES AND MAY HOPE TO PLACE SOME OF ALL OF 15 AID STUDENTS FROM AUB IN US UNIVERSITIES FOR SEPTEMBER SESSION, WHICH MAY BE UNREALISTIC HOPE FOR MOST OF STUDENTS INVOLVED. WE UNDERSTAND STUDENTS RETURNING MUSCAT NOW, MAY ATTEMPT REVERSE WITHDRAWAL ORDER.
- 2. MUSCAT 232 JUNE 6 TO BEIRUT ASKED, BEHALF OMAN MINED, WHEN PARKER WOULD VISIT OMAN, PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTRACT PROPOSAL. PARKER THEN IN TEHRAN BUT ON RETURN

ADVISED THAT HE PLANNED DEPART BEIRUT JUNE 22 FOR WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS AND HOME LEAVE BUT WOULD VISIT OMAN BEFORE THEN IF MINED CONCURRED. THIS SENT MUSCAT BEIRUT 6620 JUNE 12 BUT KUWAIT'S 2676 JUNE 26 ASKING FOR REPLY MUSCAT 232 INDICATES BEIRUT 6620 NOT RECEIVED BY MUSCAT. (PARKER SAID HE UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED CONTACT MINED BY CABLE AND TELPHONE PRIOR JUNE 22. ALSO SAID MUSCAT 232 WAS FIRST MINED RESPONSE TO HIS CONTRACT PROPOSAL.)

- 3. WE UNDERSTAND PARKER WAS STILL AT AFME HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON JUNE 26 AND MAY STILL BE THERE. HE PLANNED HOME LEAVE UTAH JUNE-JULY, RETURN WASHINGTON AUGUST AND RETURN BEIRUT SEPTEMBER 1. HE HAD INDICATED HE MIGHT TRAVEL TO OMAN FROM US IF NECESSARY TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER.
- 4. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED CONTACT PARKER OR AFME FOR UPDATING HIS PLANS AND ASSESSMENT OMAN SITUATION AND TRANSMIT SAME URGENTLY MUSCAT.
- 5. SUGGEST MUSCAT URGENTLY UPDATE WASHINGTON ON SITUATION. WHAT EXACTLY DOES MINED WANT OF PARKER?
- 6. PLEASE KEEP BEIRUT INFORMED. HOUGHTON

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